

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my concerns with a specific section in SB-18. In section 3a (87-91) CSCU institutions that do not receive the requested funds has the option to raise tuition. By not ensuring that requested appropriations are addressed it will force CSCU schools and Charter Oak College to make a decision that is a no-win situation for the residents of CT. Institutions that do not receive funding will have to make the choice of negatively impacting their student's quality of higher-education or the affordability.

Amending the bill to enforce the allocation of funds to every institution will help prevent the academic gap seen in secondary education and intensify the diminishing student enrollment. Requiring a minimum percentage of the requested appropriations at each institution, will give the flexibility in decision making. In addition, schools that are awarded their appropriation request will receive most of their funds. Committing to at least minimum percentage of appropriations to each institution will allow fair dispersant of funds. I truly feel that if this is not addressed in here in Appropriations, the requested funds that are not approved are going to impact many communities, passing on the financial impact on the students, either through decreased resources and staff or through higher tuition fees. I currently have a son graduating from an R1 school and if CSCU schools did not offer an affordable quality higher-education, I would have not had the opportunity to return to school, and persue my goal of helping the young leaders of our future in higher-education.